

# Regional Strategic Plan for Public Access to Waterways in Hampton Roads

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March 15, 2018



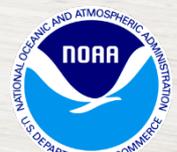
# Strategic Plan for Public Access to Water

- Public access to water has been a high priority at local, state, and federal levels
- Received grant from CZM
- The strategic plan will:
  - Serve as a resource for localities when planning new public access projects
  - Help guide prioritization for projects in the region

*“Providing adequate public access..is important for quality of life, the economy, and for long-term conservation of the region’s treasured natural resources.”*  
- National Park Service



Virginia Coastal Zone  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



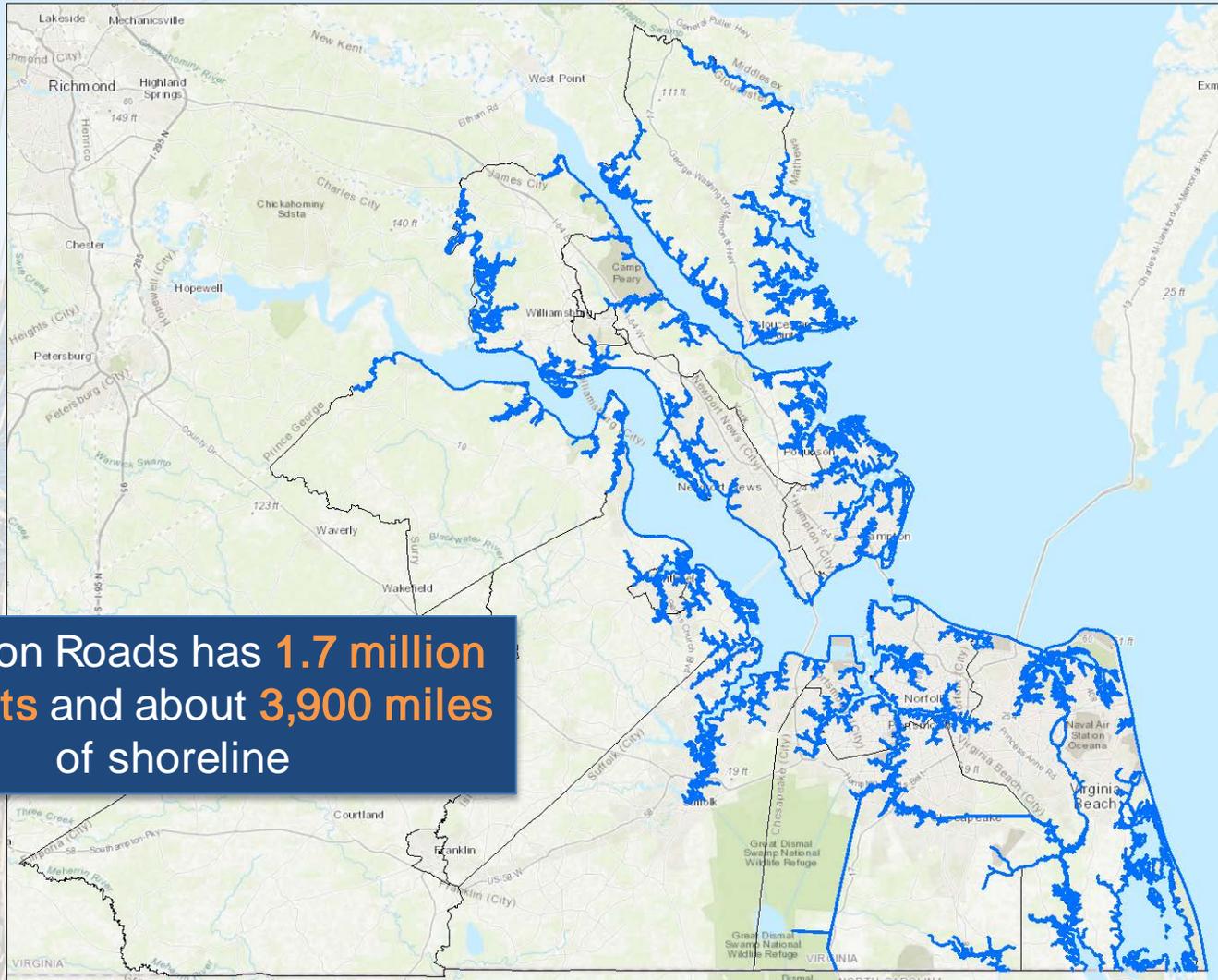
# Goals of the Plan

1. Assess the demand for public access
2. Conduct public access sites inventory
3. Identify potential opportunities for expanding public access
4. Public outreach to promote existing network of sites with interactive map



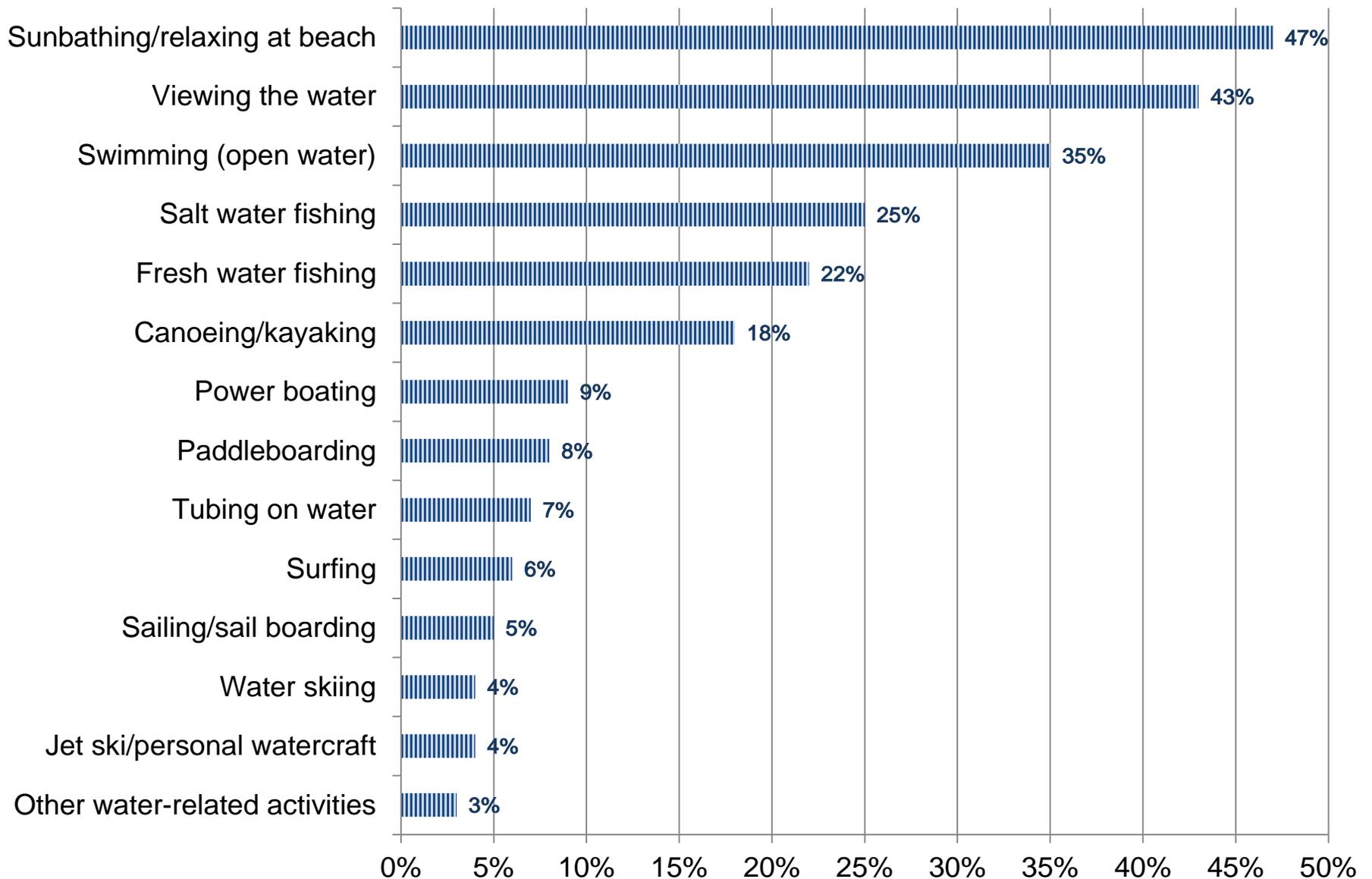
Lavalette Ave. Kayak Launch & Fishing Pier in Norfolk on opening day – October 2017

# Assessing Demand for Public Access



Hampton Roads has **1.7 million residents** and about **3,900 miles** of shoreline

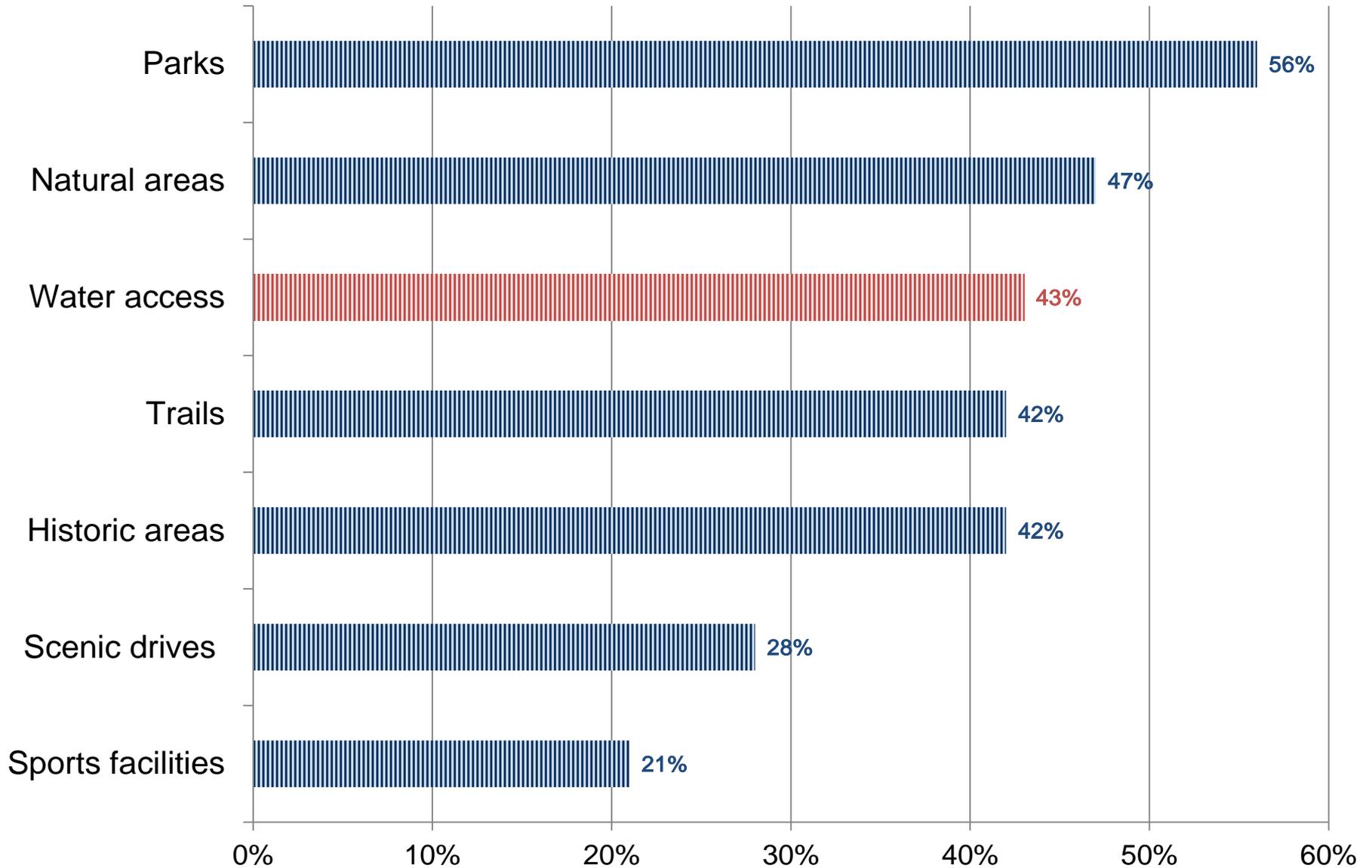
# 2017 Hampton Roads Water-Based Activity Participation



Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey (DCR)

%Participation in the last 12 months

## 2017 Hampton Roads Most Needed Recreation Opportunities



Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey (DCR)

% of respondents

# Boat Registrations & Fishing Licenses

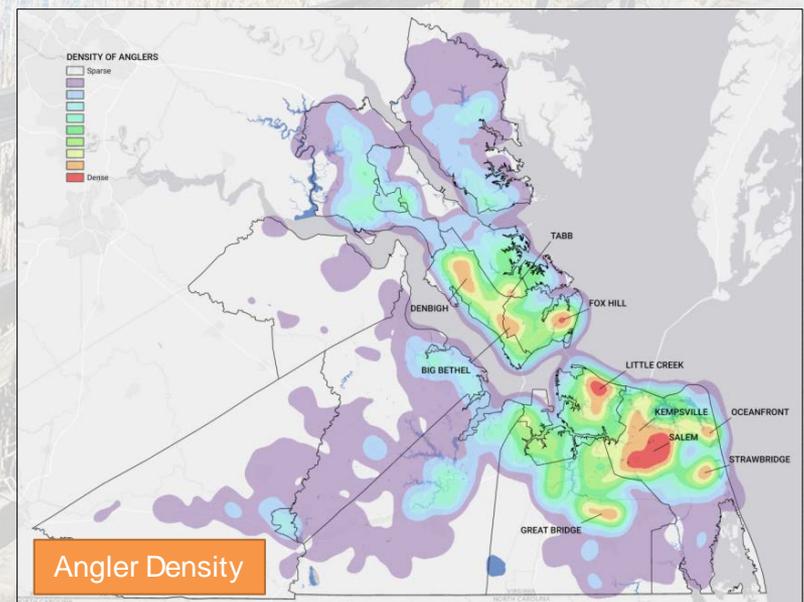
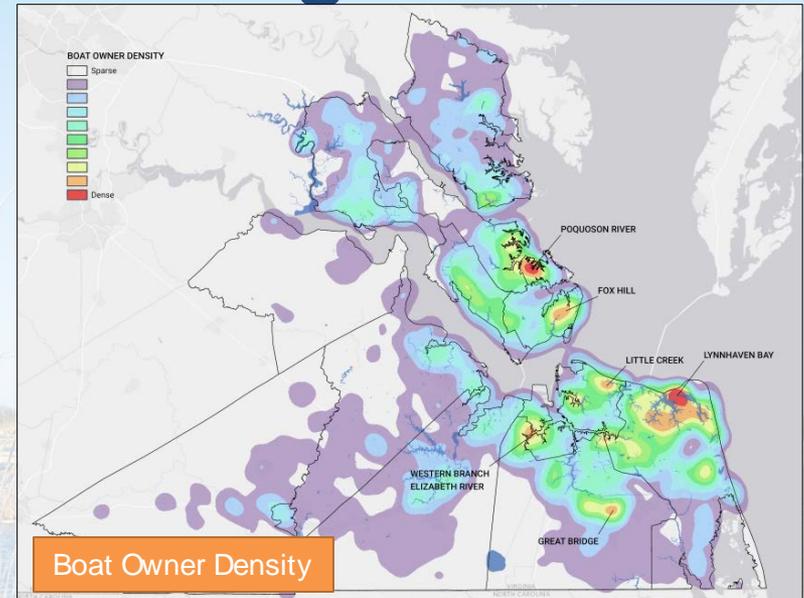
Approximately **21%** of boats in Virginia are registered in Hampton Roads localities

Total boats registered in Hampton Roads (FY16): **48,305**

Approximately **13%** of fishing licenses in Virginia purchased by Hampton Roads residents

Total annual fishing licenses sold in Hampton Roads (FY16): **71,619**

Source: VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries; FY16



# Public Access Inventory



## Boating Access

- Boat Ramps
- Kayak Launches



## Swimming Access



## Fishing Access

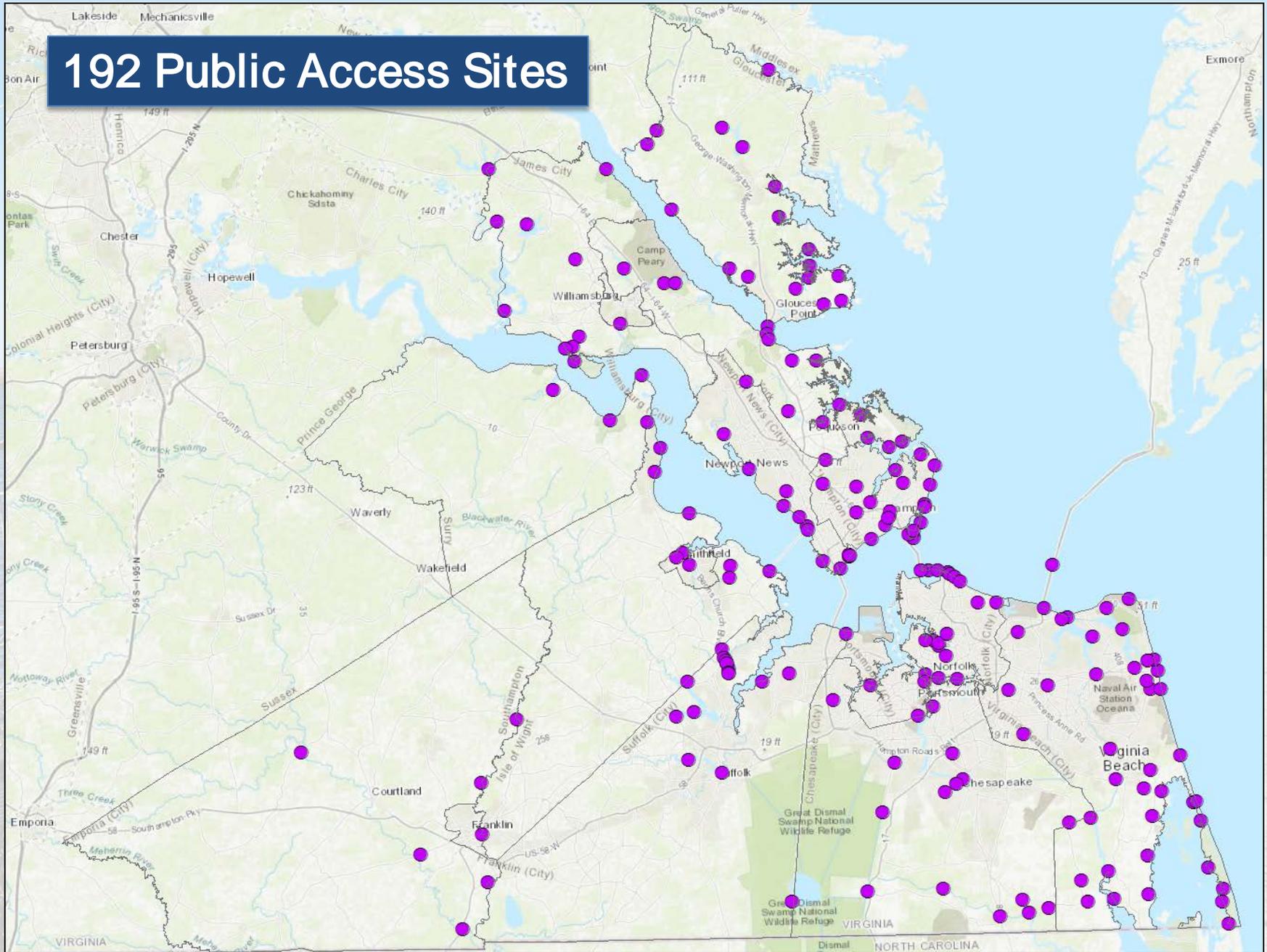
- Pier Fishing
- Bank Fishing



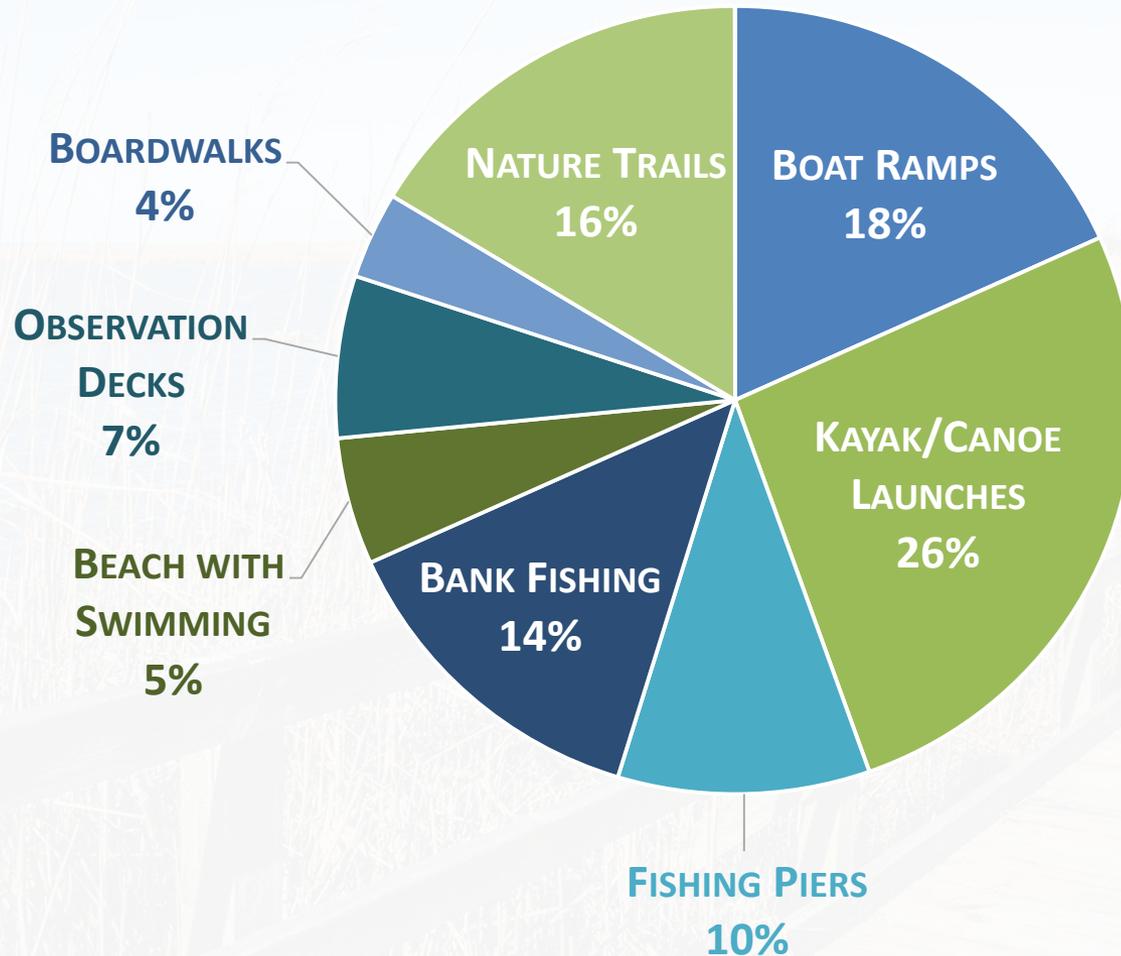
## Viewing Access

- Boardwalks
- Observations Decks
- Nature Trails

# 192 Public Access Sites

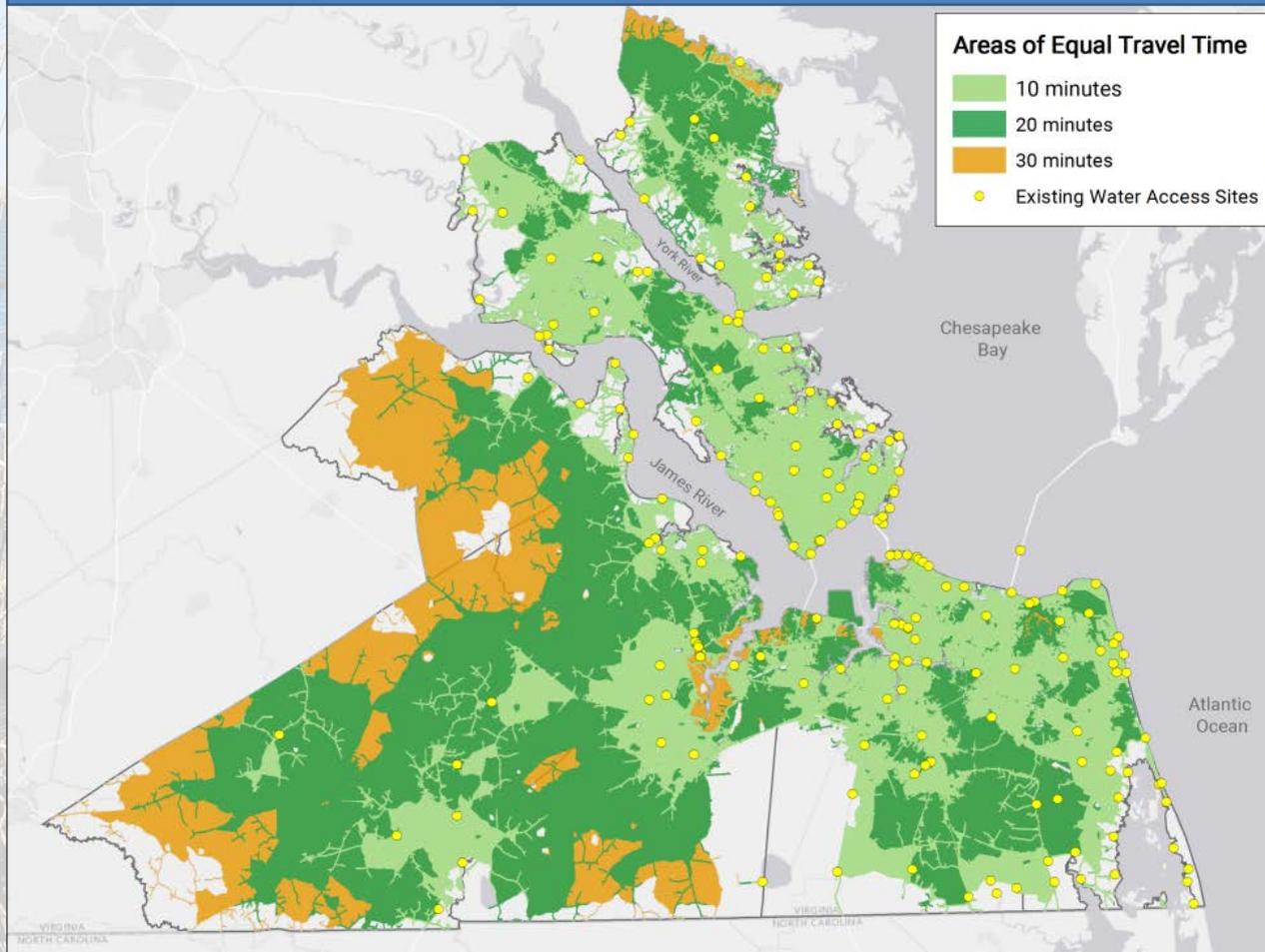


# Types of Existing Public Access Sites



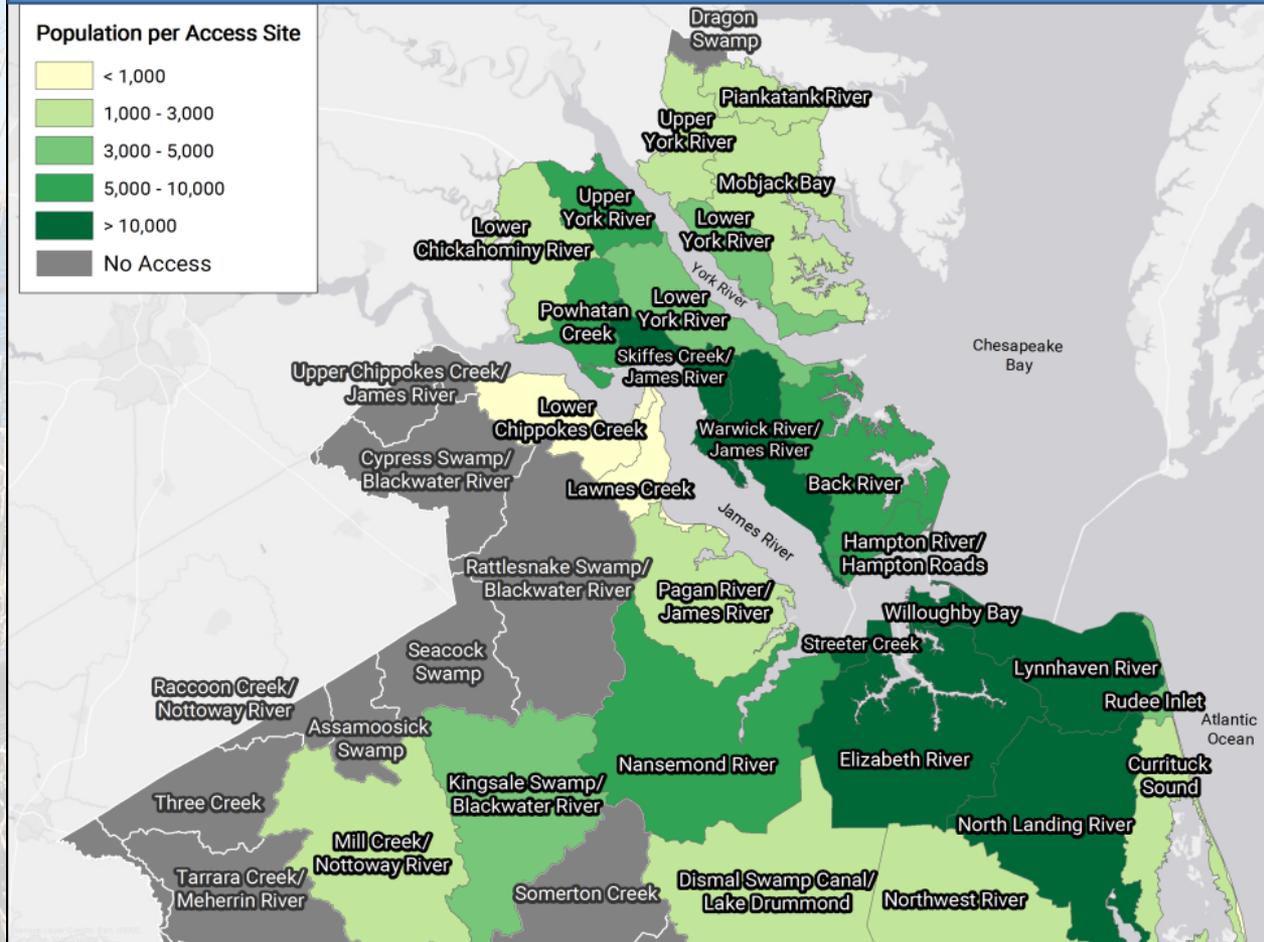
# Identifying Opportunities for Public Access Sites

## Travel Time to Public Access Sites



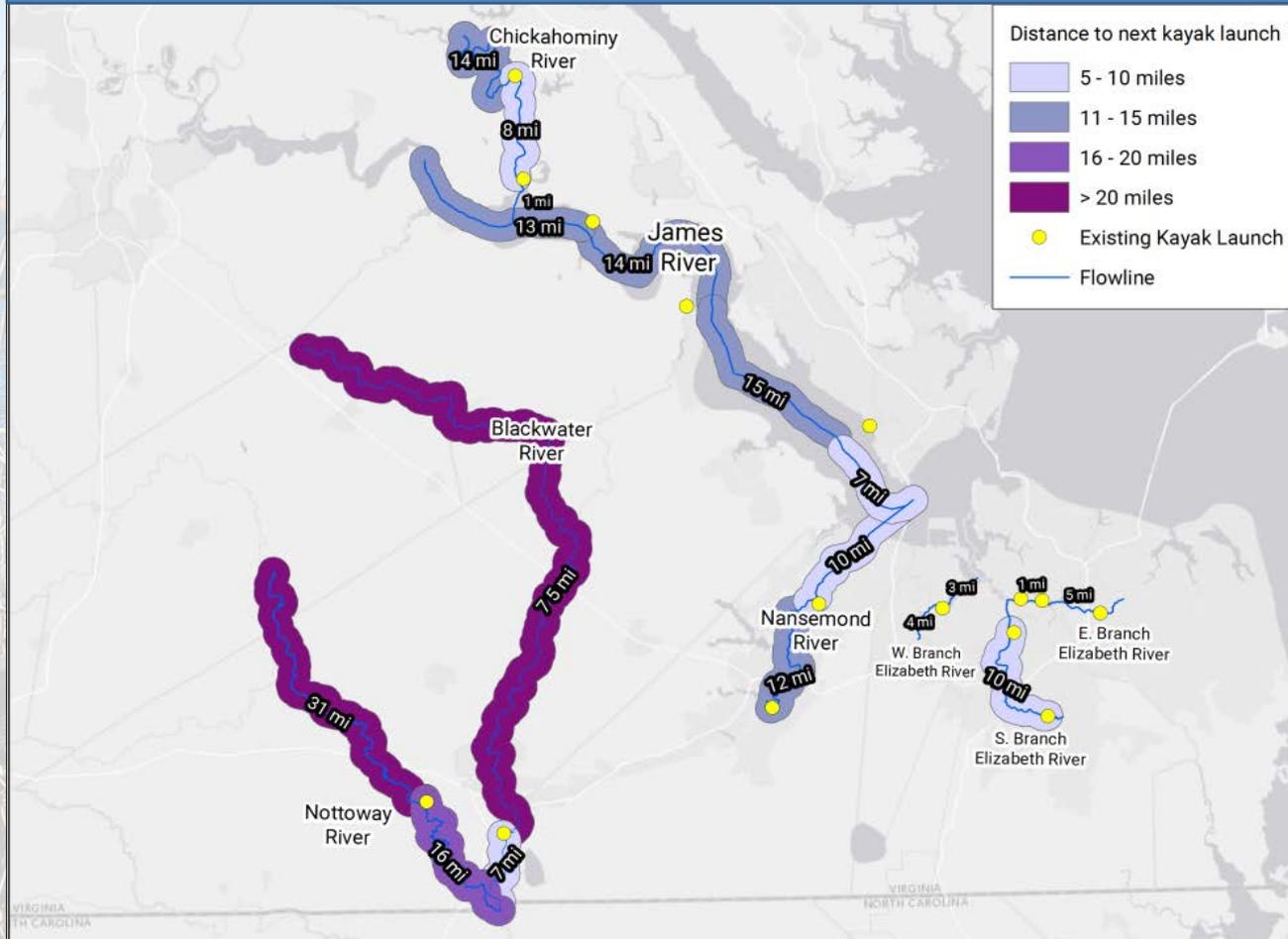
# Identifying Opportunities for Public Access Sites

## Population & Public Access by Watershed



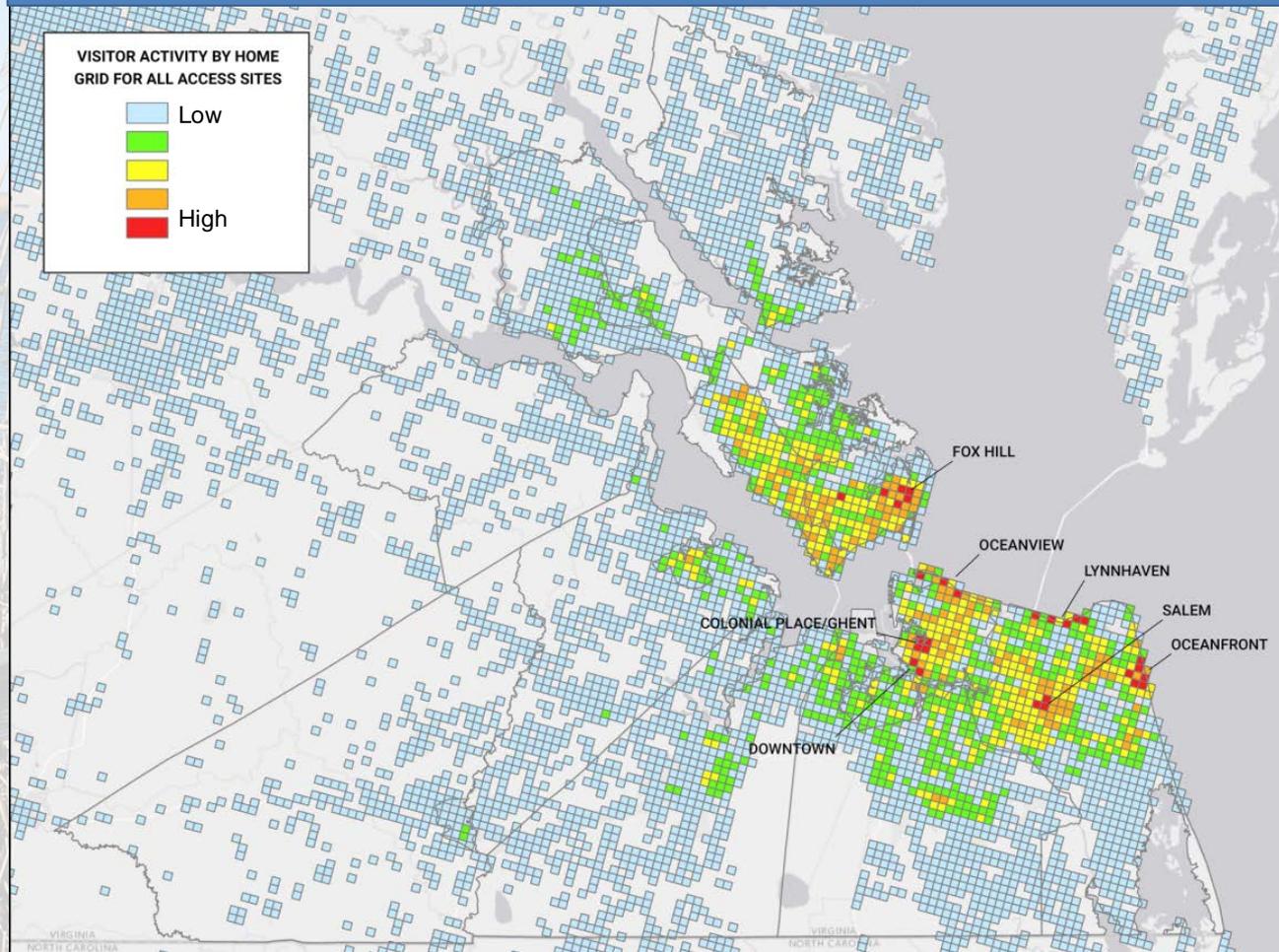
# Identifying Opportunities for Public Access Sites

## Travel Distance Between Kayak Launches



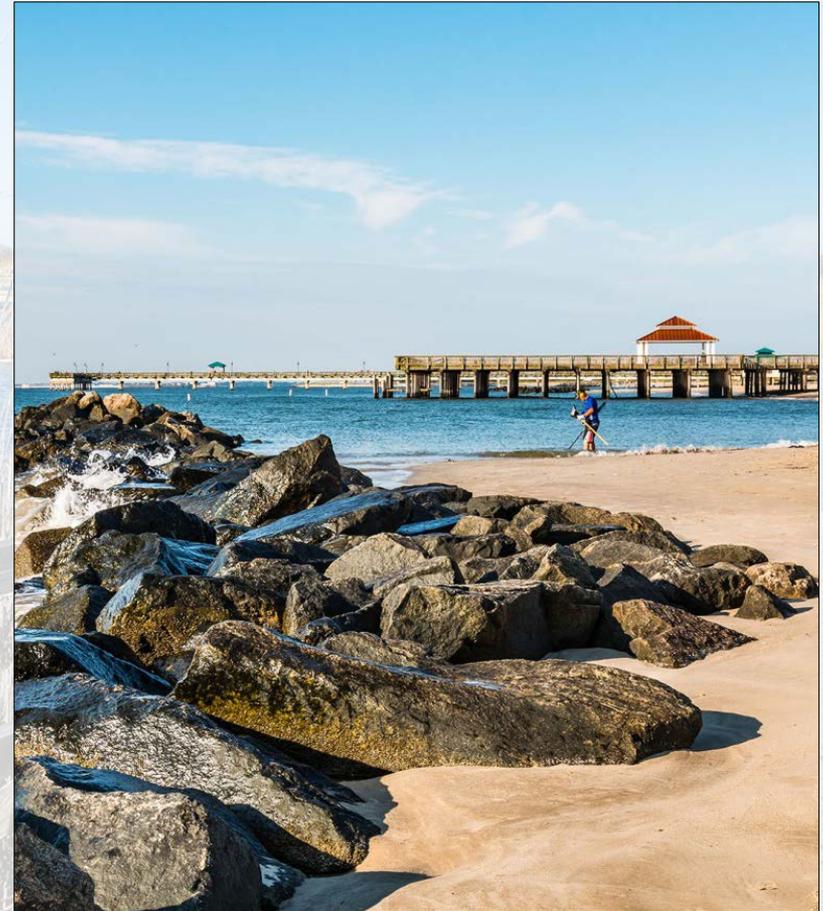
# Identifying Opportunities for Public Access Sites

## Visitor Activity Analysis



# Findings

- ✓ High demand for public access to water
  - Visiting the beach is the most popular water-based activity
  - Hampton Roads has highest number in the state for fishing licenses/boat registrations
- ✓ Nearly 98% of residents live within 30-minute drive of the 192 public access sites



Buckroe Beach in Hampton

# Findings

- ✓ Opportunities exist to fill in gaps to create a more connected network of public access
  - Lack of public access sites
    - Some watersheds have no public access sites
    - Large distance between kayak/boat sites along some rivers
  - Underserved areas with higher demand
    - Areas of dense population may not have enough public access sites

# Potential Next Steps

- Additional analysis to refine gaps locally
- Conduct special studies for specific watersheds or waterbodies
- Develop tool for planners to evaluate and rank potential projects
- Inventory of shoreline public land ownership
- Investigate creating a public access authority
- **Maintain/update inventory data**

# Public Outreach

**Map Layers**

- Water Access Sites
- Public Fishing Lakes
- Blueways & Water Trails
- Multi-Use Trails

**FISHSWIMPLAY.COM**

**FIND WATER ACCESS SITES IN HAMPTON ROADS**

Water Access Sites in Hampton Roads

Scale: 0mi

Coordinates: -77.982 37.551 Degrees

# Public Outreach



**FISHSWIMPLAY.COM**  
FIND WATER ACCESS SITES IN HAMPTON ROADS

**FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE  
IN HAMPTON ROADS!**

Search the map for...

- ▶ BOAT RAMPS
- ▶ FISHING PIERS
- ▶ KAYAK LAUNCHES
- ▶ BEACHES

...AND MORE!

Visit [fishswimplay.com](http://fishswimplay.com)  
View on any device. No download required.



**FISHSWIMPLAY.COM**

**Fort Monroe National Monument**  
(1 of 2)

Jurisdiction	Hampton
Site Name	Fort Monroe National Monument
Waterbody	Hampton Roads
URL	More info
Boat Ramp	No
Kayak/Canoe Launch	No
Fishing Pier	No
Bank Fishing	No
Observation Deck	Yes
Boardwalk	Yes
Beach Swimming	No

Zoom to

**Filter by Access Type**

- Boat Ramps
- Canoe/Kayak
- Fishing Pier
- Bank Fishing
- Beach Access
- Nature Trail
- Observation Deck
- Boardwalk

**SEARCH BY:**

- ▶ Name
- ▶ Location
- ▶ Access Type



This project was funded in part by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #VA16N056190171 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.



# Demo

**FISHSWIMPLAY.COM**



**FIND WATER ACCESS SITES IN HAMPTON ROADS**

# FISHSWIMPLAY.COM



## FIND WATER ACCESS SITES IN HAMPTON ROADS

### Getting Started

Below are the icons found on the map with their general function. For more details on each one, please click the Help icon on the toolbar from within the mapping application.

Basemaps	Layers	Search Location	Share
Help	Legend	Filter	Search Name

Print

### Disclaimer

This web app was developed by the [Hampton Roads Planning District Commission \(HRPDC\)](#) as a component of the Regional Strategic Plan for Public Access to Waterways in Hampton Roads. While every effort has been made to obtain current information and locations, water access sites and amenities can change.

OK

### Map Layers

Operational layers

- Water Access Sites
- Public Fishing Lakes
- Blueways & Water Trails
- Multi-Use Trails

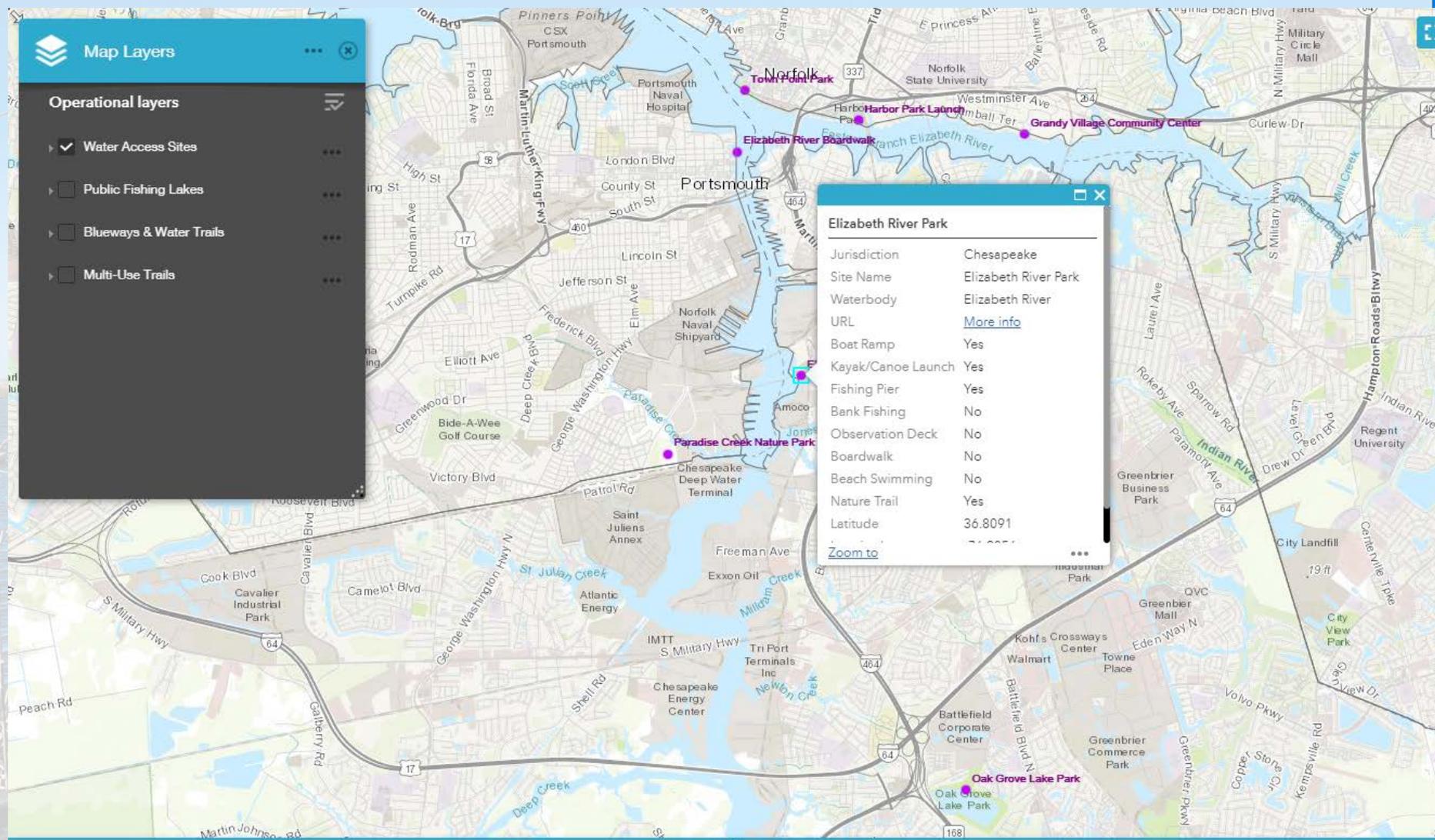




**Map Layers**

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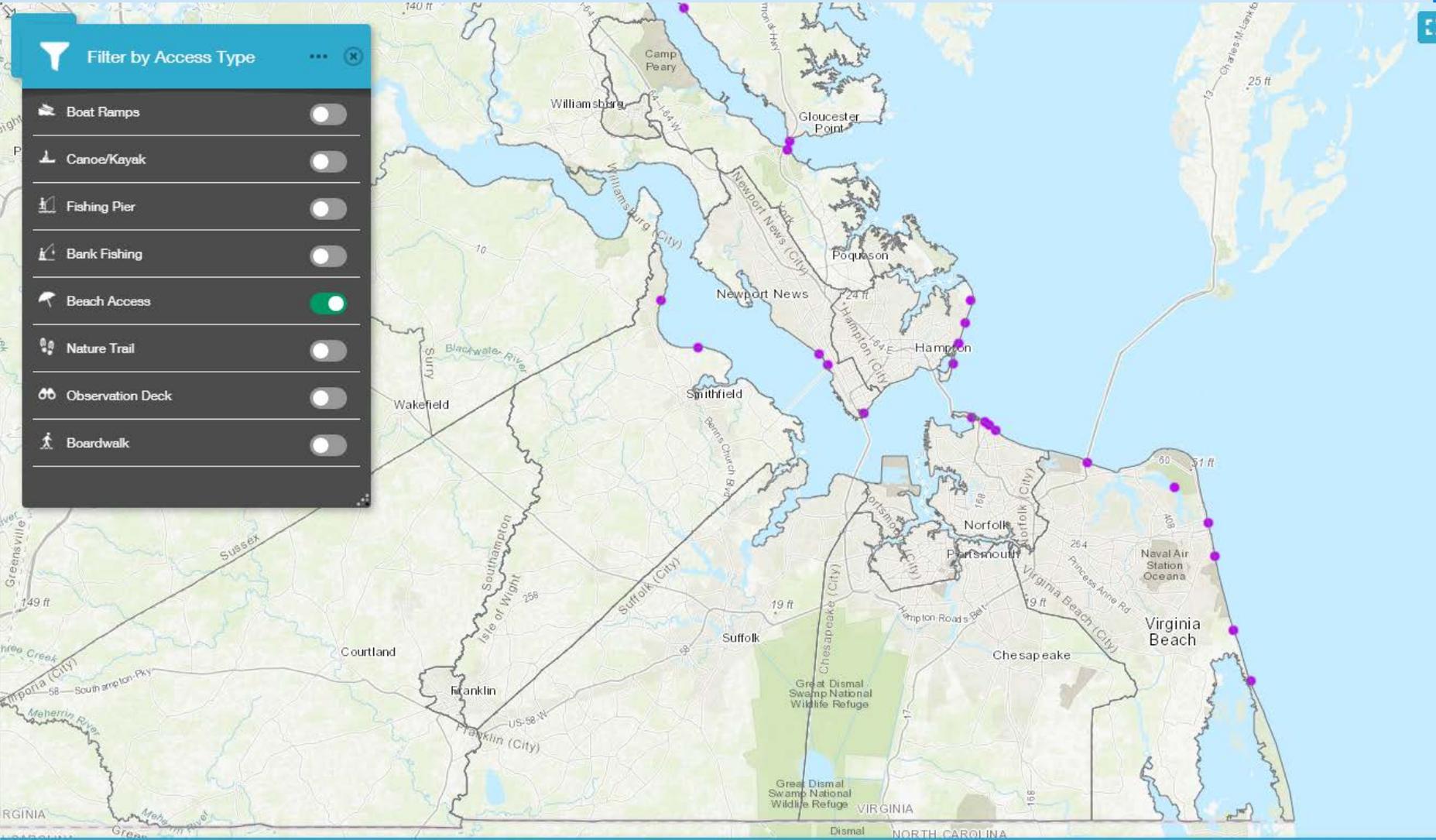
**Elizabeth River Park**

Jurisdiction	Chesapeake
Site Name	Elizabeth River Park
Waterbody	Elizabeth River
URL	<a href="#">More info</a>
Boat Ramp	Yes
Kayak/Canoe Launch	Yes
Fishing Pier	Yes
Bank Fishing	No
Observation Deck	No
Boardwalk	No
Beach Swimming	No
Nature Trail	Yes
Latitude	36.8091
Longitude	-76.3000

[Zoom to](#)

Water Access Sites in Hampton Roads

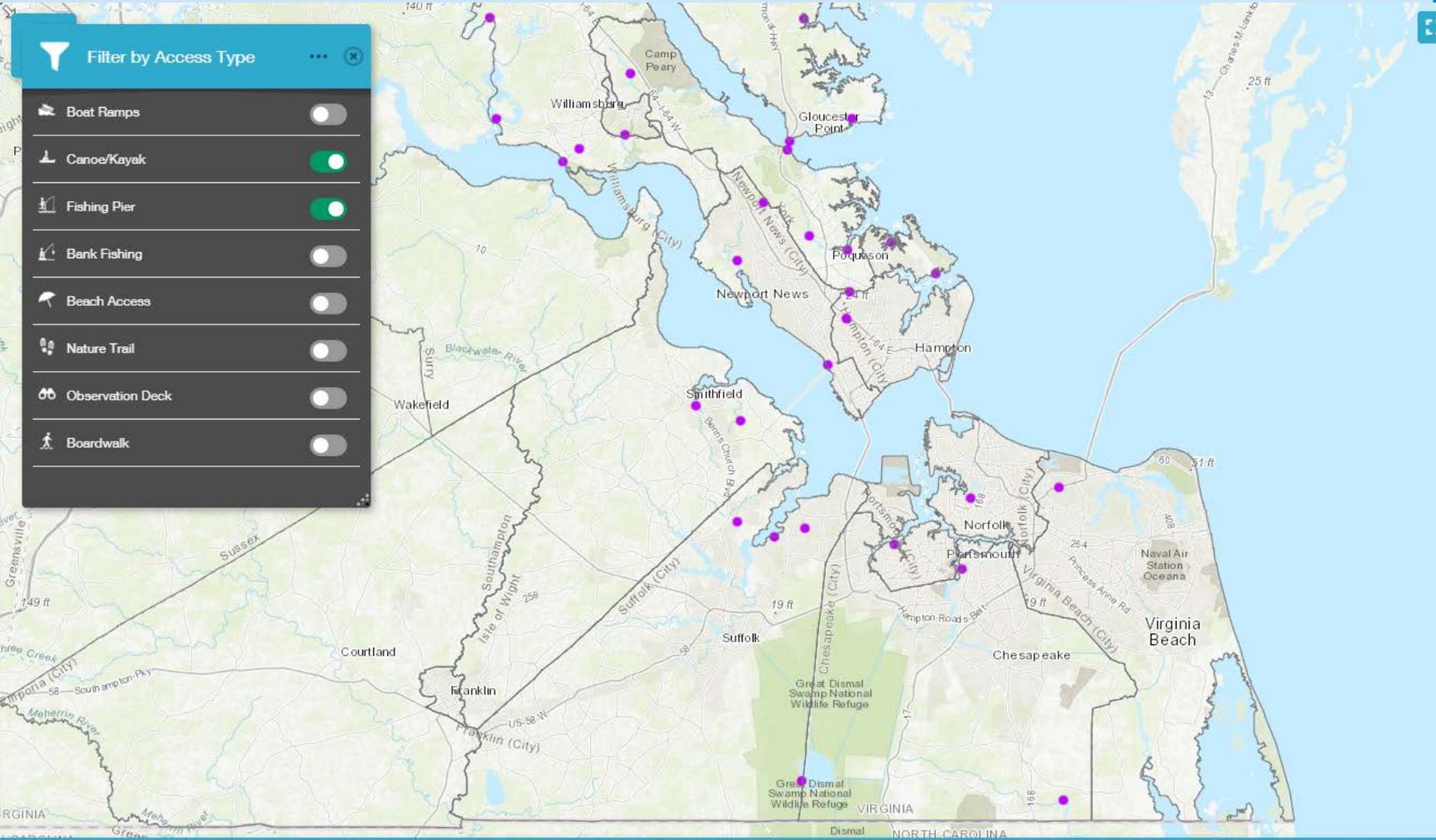
Map navigation icons: Home, Info, Layers, Filter, Search, Print, etc.



**Filter by Access Type**

- Boat Ramps
- Canoe/Kayak
- Fishing Pier
- Bank Fishing
- Beach Access
- Nature Trail
- Observation Deck
- Boardwalk

Water Access Sites in Hampton Roads



## Water Access Sites in Hampton Roads

Map navigation and utility icons including zoom in (+), zoom out (-), home, layers, list, filter, location, search, share, and print.

**Search Near Location**

Search an address or locate on map

**1401-1499 Elizabeth River Way**

Show results within 5 Miles

0 — 15

Water Access Sites

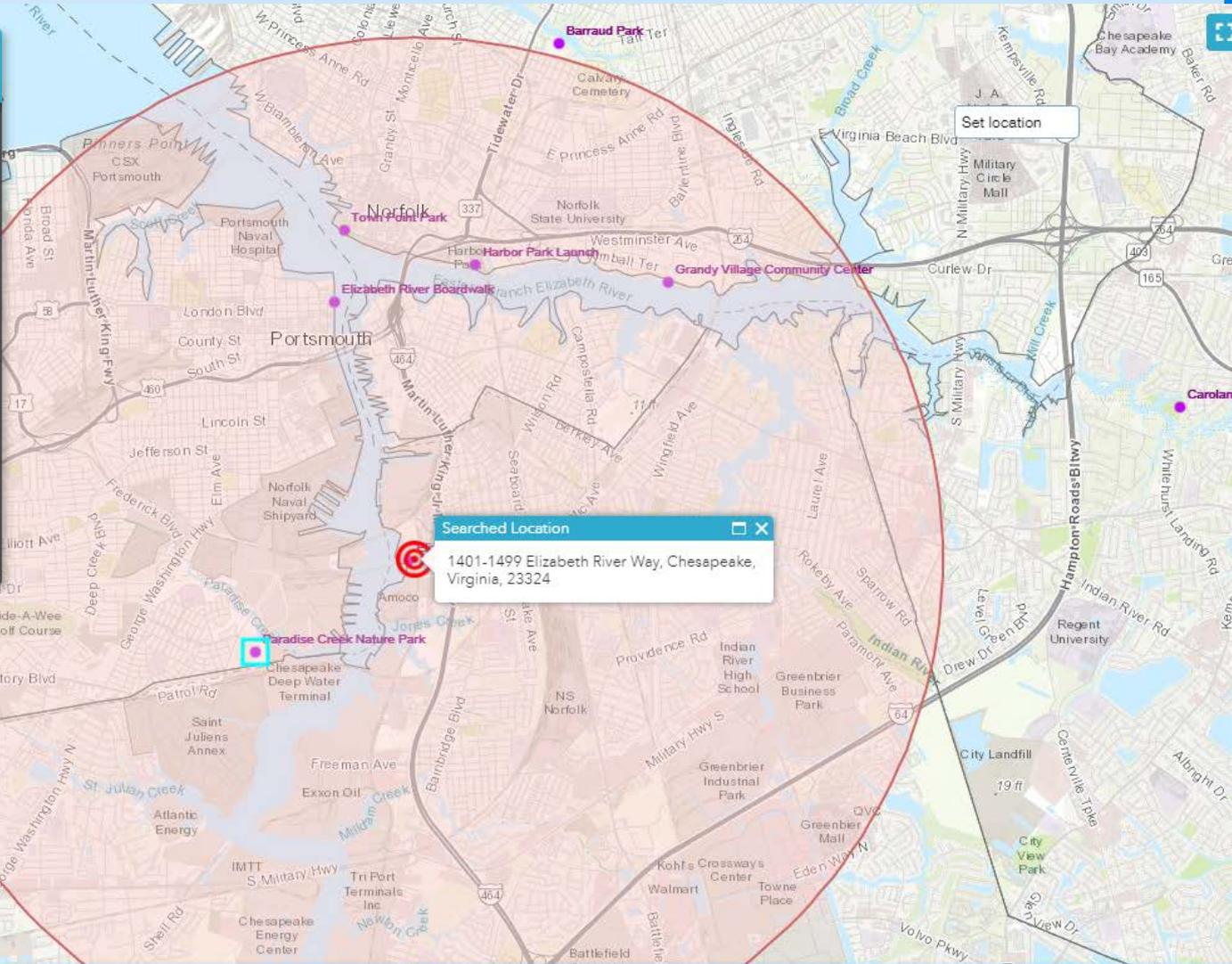
Approximate Distance: 1.76 mi

**Paradise Creek Nature Park**

Jurisdiction	Portsmouth
Site Name	Paradise Creek Nature Park
Waterbody	Elizabeth River

**Searched Location**

1401-1499 Elizabeth River Way, Chesapeake, Virginia, 23324



Water Access Sites in Hampton Roads





Search by Name



Search Options

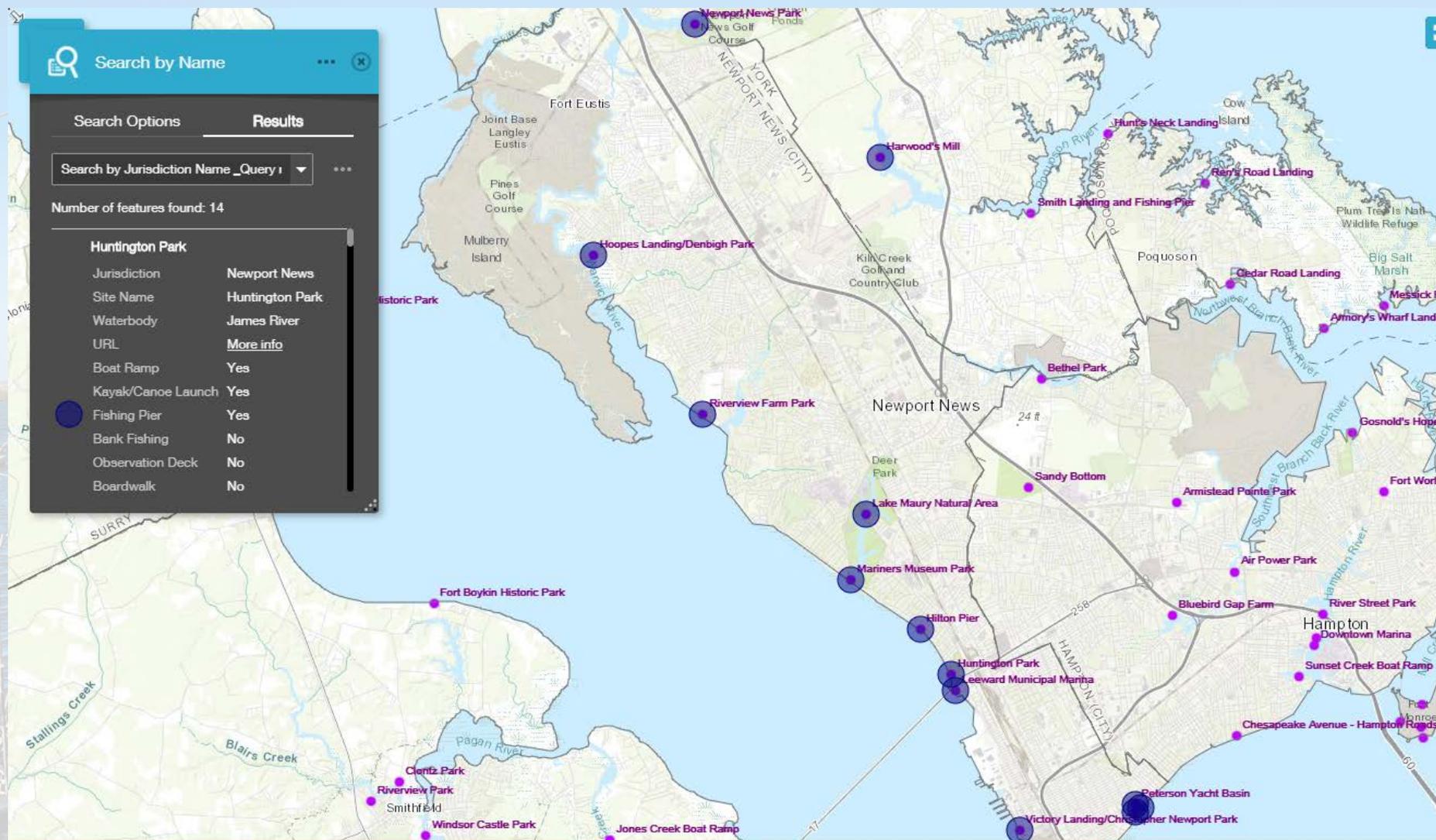
Results

Search by Jurisdiction Name \_Query 1

Number of features found: 14

**Huntington Park**

Jurisdiction	Newport News
Site Name	Huntington Park
Waterbody	James River
URL	<a href="#">More info</a>
Boat Ramp	Yes
Kayak/Canoe Launch	Yes
Fishing Pier	Yes
Bank Fishing	No
Observation Deck	No
Boardwalk	No



## Water Access Sites in Hampton Roads



Search by Name

Search Options

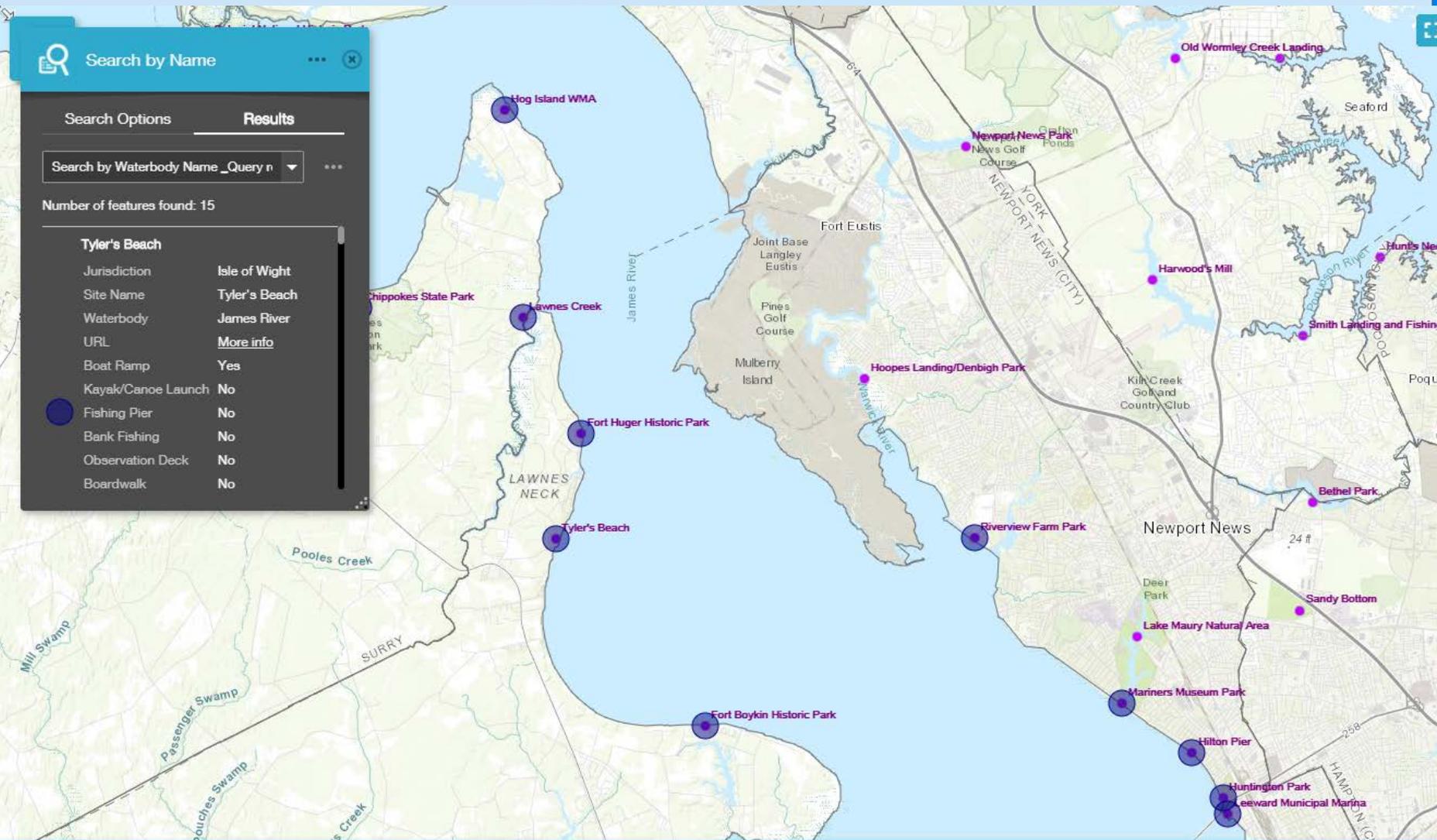
Results

Search by Waterbody Name \_Query n

Number of features found: 15

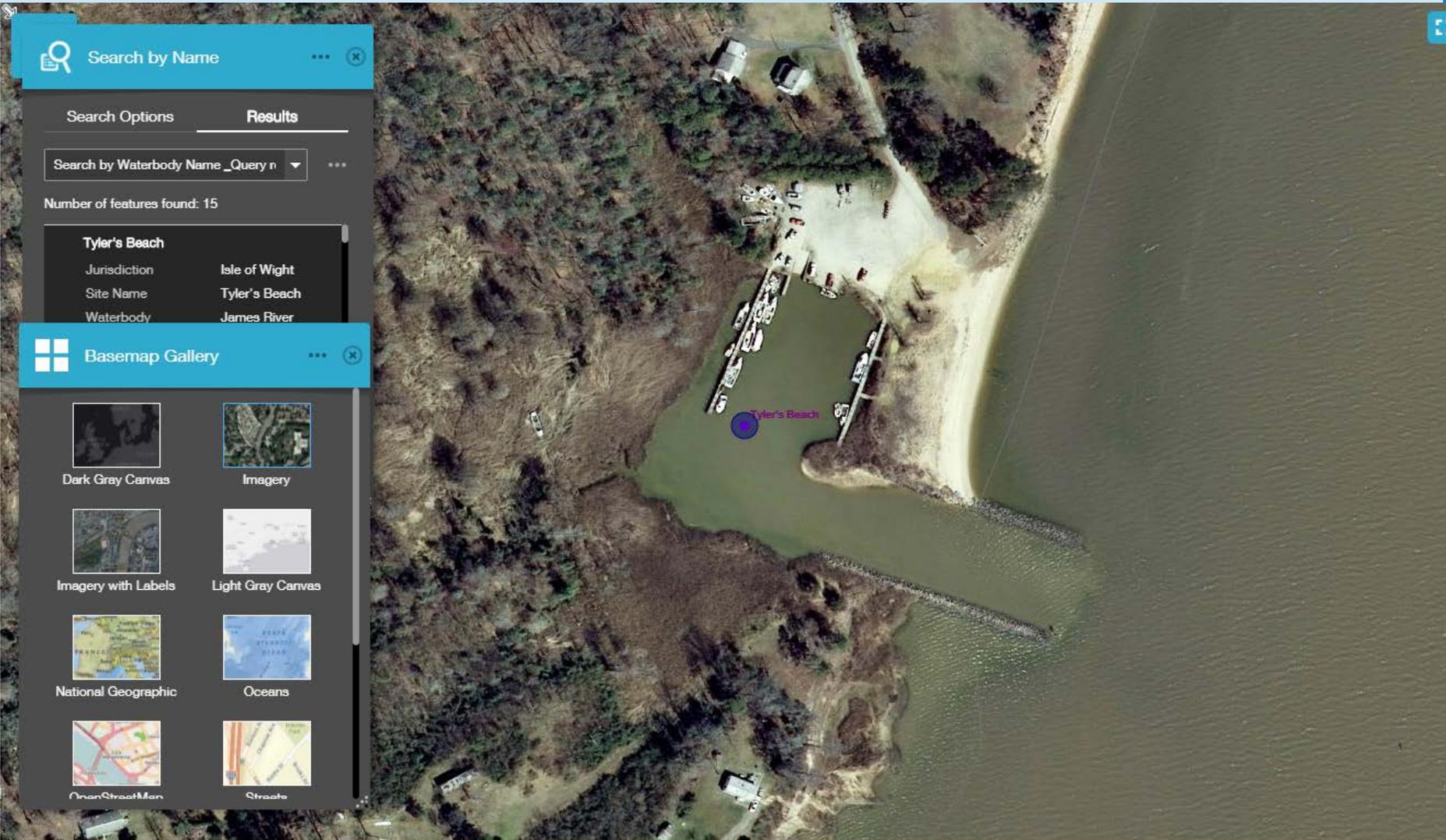
**Tyler's Beach**

Jurisdiction	Ile of Wight
Site Name	Tyler's Beach
Waterbody	James River
URL	<a href="#">More info</a>
Boat Ramp	Yes
Kayak/Canoe Launch	No
Fishing Pier	No
Bank Fishing	No
Observation Deck	No
Boardwalk	No



## Water Access Sites in Hampton Roads





Search by Name



Search Options

Results

Search by Waterbody Name \_Query n

Number of features found: 15

**Tyler's Beach**

Jurisdiction	Ile of Wight
Site Name	Tyler's Beach
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Basemap Gallery



Dark Gray Canvas



Imagery



Imagery with Labels



Light Gray Canvas



National Geographic



Oceans



OpenStreetMap



Streets

Water Access Sites in Hampton Roads

